

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 PC-15

/185 W

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R 011800Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7806

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DA, CI

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO CHILEAN COUP

REF: COPENHAGEN 2351

SUMMARY: ARREST AND DEPORTATION OF THREE MEMBERS OF
DANISH PEACE CORPS IN CHILE IS PROVOKING ADDITIONAL
POLITICAL REACTION TO CHILEAN EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO DANISH PRESS REPORTS, THREE DANISH
EXPERTS ASSOCIATED WITH DANISH DEVELOPMENT AID
ORGANIZATION (DANIDA) AND ASSIGNED TO CHILE WERE
ARRESTED SEPTEMBER 27 BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN
CHILE, IMPRISONED IN NATIONAL STADIUM, AND SUBSEQUENTLY
DEPORTED. ARNE MORTENSEN, 35 YEAR OLD DIRECTOR OF THE
MAIPU TRAINING CENTER FOR METALWORKERS IN SANTIAGO,
HIS WIFE INGE, AND AN ARCHITECT JAN BIRKET-SMITH WERE
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RELEASED AND PLACED ON SAS PLANE THROUGH EFFORTS OF

DANISH CHARGE, OLE PHILLIPSSON, AND ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN COPENHAGEN TODAY. ALL THREE WERE APPARENTLY STRONG ALLENDE SUPPORTERS. PREVIOUS MAIPU DIRECTOR TOLD PRESS HE WARNED MORTENSEN AGAINST LATTER'S PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

2. CONSERVATIVE AND SOCIALIST PRESS ACCOUNTS DIFFER GREATLY REGARDING REASONS FOR THE ARRESTS. CONSERVATIVE PRESS CLAIMS PLANS WERE FOUND DURING RAID AT MORTENSENS'S HOME TO CONVERT MAIPU CENTER TO WEAPONS FACTORY FOR ALLENDE SUPPORTERS IN CASE OF MILITARY COUP. GOVERNMENT JOURNAL AKTUELT AND OTHER LEFT-ORIENTED PAPERS CLAIM ARRESTS DUE TO SINGLE PIECE MARXIST LITERATURE FOUND IN MORTENSEN HOME AFTER PAID INFORMER NOTICED FAMILY BURNING PAPERS IN GARDEN. BIRKET-SMITH, GRANDSON OF FAMOUS DANISH DISCOVERER AND AUTHOR KAI BIRKET-SMITH, WAS REPORTEDLY IN ANY CASE LESS SERIOUSLY INVOLVED. HE RESIDED WITH MORTENSENS AND WAS EMPLOYED AS URBAN AFFAIRS ADVISOR IN CHILEAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT MORTENSENS ARRIVAL TODAY WILL STIMULATE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY REGARDING THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. GIVEN DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT'S AND LABOR MOVEMENT'S STRONG SYMPATHY FOR ALLENDE REGIME, MORTENSEN FAMILY - THREE MINOR CHILDREN ARE ACCOMPANYING PARENTS - BID FAIR TO BECOME POPULAR LEFT-WING HEROES IN DENMARK. IF, HOWEVER, IT BECOMES CLEAR THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WERE INCONTESTABLY ILLEGAL, CASE WILL BE PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSING FOR DANIDA, SINCE THAT ORGANIZATION HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN ACCUSED OF EMPLOYING TOO MANY LEFT-WING ACTIVISTS. THUS FAR DANIDA SPOKESMAN HAS SIMPLY STATED THAT ALL EMPLOYEES ARE WARNED NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL POLITICS.

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